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SUMMARY OF COMMENTARY IN PRAVDA ON SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA
(February 22 - March 21, 1982)

April 1982

Prepared by the Federal Research Division of
the Library of Congress under an interagency agreement

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John Stepanchuk
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PREFACE

This monthly survey compiles articles on sub-Saharan Africa which appear in Pravda. It has been prepared since April 1980. Pravda is the official newspaper of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. Items published are presumably authoritative. Articles dealing with Soviet political, military, or economic interests in Africa are entirely translated or extensively excerpted or summarized. News accounts which heavily rely on news services of other countries are simply noted. All entries have been arranged chronologically under general African or country headings. FBIS translations are summarized or annotated for reader reference; duplication is avoided.

Summary of Commentary in Pravda on Sub-Saharan Africa

(22 February 1982 - 21 March 1982)*

Africa General

Conference of Frontline States

(Summary) A conference of leaders from Front Line states, including those from Tanzania, Zambia, Angola, Botswana, Mozambique and Zimbabwe as well as from the South-West African People's Organization (SWAPO) and the African National Congress (ANC), ended today with a communique condemning the growing aggression of imperialist forces, which is expressed in the subversive activities of the racist Republic of South Africa. (9 Mar 82, p. 1)

African National Congress

Soviet Support

(Excerpt) The offices of the representatives of the African National Congress (ANC) in London were bombed in what seems to be a continuation of bloody crimes committed by the government in Pretoria. In connection with this, the Soviet Committee of Solidarity with the Countries of Asia and Africa issued a declaration condemning South Africa's criminal activities and called on the international community to offer assistance to the liberation struggle of the people of southern Africa. (17 Mar 82, p. 5)

Strong Domestic Support

(Summary) According to a study prepared by a group of political statesmen, university professors, and representatives of business circles in the Republic of South Africa (RSA), the African National Congress (ANC) exerts strong influence in the RSA. The position of the ANC is especially influential, the report findings indicate, in the two most populous and industrially-developed provinces of the country--the Transvaal and Natal. (18 Mar 82, p. 5)

Organization of African Unity

OAU Session Opens

(Excerpts) The routine, 38th session of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) Council of Ministers has begun work here [Addis Ababa]. On the agenda are discussions of the organization's budget and also a number of urgent political issues, such as the question of the acquisition of true freedom for the citizens of Namibia and South Africa--the last factions of colonialism and racism in the world--and the struggle for self-determination of the inhabitants of the Western Sahara. (24 Feb 82, p. 5, and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report #042, 3 Mar 82, p. CC7)

*Edition of 24 February was not received.

Rift Over Polisario

(Excerpt) The OAU Council of Ministers' session continued its work in Addis Ababa with a sharp disagreement arising from the issue of official admittance being granted to the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic [Polisario]. (25 Feb 82, p. 4)

OAU Session Continues

(Excerpt) The OAU Council of Ministers' session continued work in Addis Ababa with the approval of the organization's annual budget, discussions about refugees in Africa, and a series of economic issues. (27 Feb 82, p. 5)

Western Proposal on Namibia Rejected

(Summary) During the 38th meeting of the Organization of African Unity in Addis Ababa the question of Namibia was discussed. The delegates rejected a proposal by the West on Namibia, illegally occupied by racist South Africa. The goal of the proposal, said the Secretary for Foreign Relations P. Mueshihange of the South-West African People's Organization (SWAPO) in his speech to the delegates, is to provide privileges to the white minority and not allow SWAPO to govern the country; instead, it establishes a neocolonial regime in the country. (1 Mar 82, p. 1)

38th Session of the OAU

(Summary) During the meeting of the 38th Session of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the participants resolutely condemned the United States, Great Britain, and Israel for supporting the South African racist regime, claiming that the refusal of the West to impose economic sanctions against South Africa encourages the racists in new aggressions against the independent states of Africa. They also expressed indignation about the activities of Western multinational corporations which continue to supply the apartheid government with oil. (2 Mar 82, p. 5)

United Nations

Anti-Racist Discrimination Day

(Excerpt) The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination was marked at the UN Headquarters at a large reception attended by state delegations, representatives of the world community, political dignitaries, spokesmen for international organizations, and honored guests. (21 Mar 82, p. 1)

Angola

Students Reunite in Luanda

(Excerpt) Words of thanks resounded with emotion in the spacious hall of the Center of Russian Languages in the Angolan capital during the opening to which representatives from three continents came who are receiving an education in the Soviet Union. After gaining independence in 1975, the majority of Angolans can now read and write. (28 Feb 82, p. 1)

Political Activities of Women

[On the occasion of International Women's Day (8 March), Pravda correspondent M. Zenovich reports on the political activities of Angolan women. (7 Mar 82, p. 4)]

New South African Invasion

(Excerpt) A battalion of South African troops has invaded the territory of the People's Republic of Angola according to a statement issued by the Angolan Embassy in Paris. This latest military action by the racist militarists, is the first stage of a massive aggression against Angola concocted by Pretoria and its Western supporters. (19 Mar 82, p. 5)

Chad

Fighting in Chad

(Text) The Libyan Information Agency JANA notes that the situation in eastern Chad has become extremely tense. Fierce battles between government forces and rebel detachments headed by former Chadian Defense Minister H. Habre are taking place in the area of the city of Umm-Hajjer which fell into rebel hands for the second time the other day.

JANA reports about intense firing and the use of heavy artillery. Both sides are bearing heavy losses, already amounting to 1,000 casualties.

The information agencies are drawing attention to the fact that the rebels are receiving comprehensive support from the United States and a number of other countries. (5 Mar 82, p. 5)

Congo

Women's Congress

(Excerpt) The Fifth Congress of the Revolutionary Union of Congolese Women completed its work in Brazzaville. (15 Mar 82, p. 1)

Peace March

(Excerpt) The first peace march in the history of the Congo took place in Brazzaville initiated by the Revolutionary Union of Congolese Women. The thousands of participants in the march filed through the central square and carried banners supporting detente and international cooperation. (16 Mar 82, p. 1)

Ethiopia

Campaign Against Corruption

(Excerpt) Efforts are continuing in Ethiopia in establishing a countrywide system of control with worker committees to monitor the use of state funds and the suppression of corruption and squandering. (22 Feb 82, p. 4)

Progressive Changes

[Correspondent A. Serbin surveys the progressive changes that have taken place in Ethiopia's society, economic system, and foreign affairs since the revolution in 1974. (27 Feb 82, p. 4, and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report #048, 11 Mar 82, pp. J1-4)]

Education in Eritrea

(Excerpt) In this school year in northern Ethiopia in the province of Eritrea, 279 schools are open in which 123,000 children are enrolled. More than 50,000 people are enrolled in courses aimed at eliminating illiteracy. In the course of the year in this province, two centers for training adults in the use of the telegraph will be constructed. Next year in the provincial center of Asmara, a new pedagogical school will be built which will accept more than 500 students. Along with the teaching of everyday school subjects, the schools will teach the basics of Marxism-Leninism. (1 Mar 82, p. 4)

Village Cooperatives

(Text) The Ethiopian village is changing its appearance. Collective labor is becoming a more characteristic feature of peasant life. Today, 57 production cooperatives are operating in rural areas. More than 800 peasant organizations are following a course of transformation into cooperatives. At the same time, the system of marketing agricultural produce is strengthening and developing. Almost 600 supply and marketing cooperatives have been created.

Concerned about raising the level of operation in the cooperatives, the government is holding regular seminars for members. Recently, such seminars were held in Keffa and Arsi provinces. (5 Mar 82, p. 4)

Mass Movements Reorganized

(Excerpt) The Provisional Military Administrative Council (PMAC) published directives on the reorganization and rebuilding of the structures of two mass organizations--the All-Ethiopian Trade Union and the All-Ethiopian Peasant Association. (13 Mar 82, p. 4)

Drive Against Illiteracy

(Excerpt) Preparations are at an advanced stage in the campaign to eliminate illiteracy in Ethiopia. This stage is marked by the increase in the number of languages in which grammar instruction will be provided. Greater emphasis in the current campaign will be directed toward languages of minority groups such as the Afars, Saho, and Sidamo. (15 Mar 82, p. 4)

Gambia

Death Sentence for Coup Participants

(Text) Another two men were sentenced to death in Gambia for taking part in organizing the abortive coup d'etat last June. (6 Mar 82, p. 1)

Ghana

Ghana's New Military Regime

(Excerpt) One of the most characteristic features of Ghana today is the enthusiasm being manifested by the overwhelming majority of the population for the military leadership's new political line. The Provisional National Defense Council (PNDC), headed by J. Rawlings, considers one of its tasks to be the creation of democratic institutions in the country. The formation of People's Committees for the Defense of the Revolution is a most important step in this direction. They are being created throughout Ghana at enterprises, in institutions, and at people's places of residence. These committees have been given the task of combating corruption and abuses and monitoring the fulfillment of PNDC decisions.

However, there is widespread dissatisfaction with these changes in Ghana, both inside and out of the country. For instance, the imperialist powers are worried about the trend that has emerged in Ghana toward revising the principles of relations with the Western monopolies in the Africans' favor. (1 Mar 82, p. 6, and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report #055, 22 Mar 82, pp. J1-2)

Campaign Against Speculators

(Excerpt) The offensive against speculators, embezzlers, and traders who have made a fortune by shady dealings continues in Ghana. And the struggle against smuggling also is yielding perceptible results. Most importantly, the Ghanaian working people fervently support these measures. (9 Mar 82, p. 5, and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report #055, 22 Mar 82, pp. J2-3)

Guinea

New Soviet Ambassador

(Excerpt) The USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium has appointed Comrade N. S. Kitayev as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the People's Revolutionary Republic of Guinea. (9 Mar 82, p. 6, and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report #058, 25 Mar 82, p. J3)

Mali

CPSU Greetings

(Excerpt) The Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU) extends warm greetings to the delegates of the First Congress of the Mali People's Democratic Union (MPDU) and wishes it success. The Soviet Union values the friendly relations successfully developing between the CPSU and the MPDU and between the USSR and the Republic of Mali. (23 Feb 82, p. 1, and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report #048, 11 Mar 82, p. J4)

Preparations for Political Congress

(Excerpt) With the participation of all levels of the population in the Republic of Mali, the campaign of preparations for the First Congress of the ruling party, the Mali People's Democratic Union, to be held from 23 to 25 February has ended. (23 Feb 82, p. 4)

Congress Concludes Work

(Summary) The First Congress of the ruling Mali People's Democratic Union (MPDU) has ended. The congress' overall theme was the strengthening of the MPDU's leadership role into the life of the Republic of Mali, especially in asserting an influence on the course of building in the country a new, democratic society on the basis of independence and a planned national economy. (26 Feb 82, p. 5)

Gold Discovered in Bamako Region

(Text) The news that gold was discovered in the environs of the Malian capital, Bamako, has drawn thousands of gold seekers to the area. The area around the Niger River where, according to rumors, the precious metal has been discovered, became the scene of fierce fist fights. The authorities are concerned about the outbreak of an epidemic. However, their appeal to the gold seekers to act sensibly and their suggestions that they return to their homes have not taken effect. (8 Mar 82, p. 6)

Mozambique

Machel Speaks Out Against Terrorist Groups

(Text) In the capital of Mozambique, a decision has been made to repulse armed bands organized and financed by racist Pretoria, announced FRELIMO Party Chairman and President of the People's Republic of Mozambique Samora Machel. Speaking at a mass meeting in the settlement of Mambon situated in Inhambane Province, he emphasized that future acts of banditry, and terrorizing the population will be put to an end. Participants in the meeting expressed their readiness to take part in operations to eliminate terrorist groups which have collaborated with the Republic of South Africa and the United States. (28 Feb 82, p. 1)

Congress Preparations

(Excerpt) The national conference of the Front for the Liberation of Mozambique (FRELIMO) Party has begun its work. Participants include representatives of party organizations, industrial enterprises, agricultural production cooperatives, and party groups in villages, military units, schools, hospitals, and security services. The basic task of the party conference is to discuss issues associated with the upcoming 4th party congress. (19 Mar 82, p. 4)

Namibia

UN Resolution

(Excerpt) The Human Rights Commission of the United Nations meeting in Geneva issued a resolution titled "The Illegal Occupation of Namibia by the Republic of South Africa Constitutes an Act of Aggression Against the People of Namibia and a Threat to World Peace and Safety." (27 Feb 82, p. 5)

PLAN Activities

(Text) According to a South-West African People's Organization (SWAPO) communique being distributed here [Luanda], on 24 February a patrol from South Africa's occupation army fell into an ambush arranged by fighters of the People's Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN). It was reported that 28 enemy soldiers and officers were killed.

On 27 February, the communique continues, units of PLAN carried out an attack on a South African military base in Okano, located in northern Namibia. As a result of the operation, the enemy lost more than 100 men. Among the captured trophies were five artillery weapons.

Another SWAPO communique indicates that South African racist authorities are subjecting three PLAN fighters, Joseph Zakharia, Theophilus Jason, and Lizias Nangolo Malambo, to a mock trial. They were captured after being seriously wounded early last year in the Tsumeb region. They are being tried on the basis of the so-called "terrorist law," which condemns patriots to the most severe punishment. (5 Mar 82, p. 5)

Niger

Exchange of Messages

(Text) L. I. Brezhnev and Col. S. Kountche, President of the Supreme Military Council of the Republic of Niger and head of state, have exchanged congratulatory telegrams on the 10th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the USSR and the Republic of Niger. (25 Feb 82, p. 2, and translated by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report #056, 23 Mar 82, p. J6)

Nigeria

Friendship Society Expands

(Summary) Christopher Udomeset, Speaker of the Cross River State Assembly, told an audience in Calabar at the opening of a new chapter of the Nigerian-Soviet Friendship Society that the Nigerian people deeply appreciated Soviet assistance during the civil war and after. (22 Feb 82, p. 1)

Soviet Friendship Society Delegation

(Excerpt) Nigerian President S. Shagari met with K. Belyaka, President of the USSR-Nigeria Friendship Society, Member of the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee, and Minister of Agricultural Machine Building, who delivered a personal message from L. Brezhnev. (23 Feb 82, p. 4)

Republic of South Africa

New Security Ministry

(Excerpt) A new ministry, devoted to the supervision of law and order, has been established in the Republic of South Africa. This new body, which will take over the police functions of the Ministry of Justice, is designed to increase apartheid repression. (23 Feb 82, p. 5)

Worker Repression

(Excerpt) Tozamil Gveta, one of the founders of the Union of United African Workers, a militant organization of the South African proletariat, has been subjected to humiliations during the past few weeks. This is all part of a South African Government campaign to weaken the strong unity shared by all the country's workers. (25 Feb 82, p. 5)

Botha Comments on Neighboring Countries

(Summary) South African Prime Minister Botha openly announced that neighboring African countries are finding it expensive to oppose South Africa. Threats to the Front Line states have been strengthened with aggressive actions, acts of sabotage, and subversion on territories of independent states of southern Africa. In the last year alone, more than 2,000 operations have been carried out by South African forces against Angola. (28 Feb 82, p. 5)

Union Strikes

(Excerpt) Aaron Pemba, leader of the South African Congress of Trade Unions (SACTU), stated that the strike movement in South Africa has reached large proportions. As an example, A. Pemba noted the mass political demonstrations against the recent government repression of one of the trade union leaders, N. Aggett. Almost 250,000 workers and students took part in them. The SACTU president expressed his deep gratitude to all countries, especially the Socialist ones, which support the freedom struggle of the oppressed majority of South Africa. (8 Mar 82, p. 1)

US Military Support to South Africa

(Excerpt) President Reagan's course towards a "constructive rapprochement" with the apartheid regime led to a significant strengthening of ties between the two countries. Having rejected the empty rhetoric of their predecessors about "human rights," the new masters of the White House have openly declared their full support for South Africa. But until now the United States has not dared to intensify its political and economic cooperation with the military. Now, the first step is being taken in this direction.

Such an evolution is natural. In its plans to fight the progressive transformations in Africa, the United States is relegating to South Africa the role of strike force for imperialism and tool for intervention in the internal affairs of young African states. Therefore, it is useful for the United States that South Africa possesses significant military power. Before, the White House simply closed its eyes to Pretoria's military preparations. Now it is taking on a more active role by offering the racists access to its arsenal. (10 Mar 82, p. 5)

Soviet Friendship Societies Express Support

(Excerpt) The Soviet Committee of Solidarity with the Countries of Asia and Africa and the Association for Ties Between Soviet and Foreign Cities support initiatives for active participation in measures taken by cities of the world in favor of releasing Nelson Mandela, one of the leaders of the African National Congress who is sentenced to life imprisonment, and other political prisoners in South Africa. (12 Mar 82, p. 4)

Bubonic Plague Outbreaks

(Excerpt) The bubonic plague has been reported in small cities not far from Port Elizabeth, Republic of South Africa. Similar to the outbreaks of other dangerous diseases, the plague has been discovered in the quarters inhabited by nonwhites. (15 Mar 82, p. 1)

Pickpocket Convention

(Excerpt) An international convention of pickpockets was held in Pretoria not long ago. (15 Mar 82, p. 6)

Sharpeville Commemoration

(Excerpt) An international meeting was held in Moscow on 16 March on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination called by the United Nations on the anniversary of the shooting of peaceful demonstrators in the South African settlement of Sharpeville. (17 Mar 82, p. 5)

Anti-Racial Discrimination Day

[Commentary regarding the commemoration of the International Day of Struggle for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination that has its basis in the 1960 racial disturbances in the Republic of South Africa. (20 Mar 82, p. 5)]

Rwanda

Pyrethrum Cultivation

(Excerpt) On the rocky slopes of the central African state of Rwanda large tracts are being cleared for the cultivation of pyrethrum, used as an insecticide. (18 Mar 82, p. 5)

Sierra Leone

President Criticizes Western Press

(Summary) The Western press is biased in its reporting on events occurring in the young developing nations of Africa of which Sierra Leone is one, declared President Stevens, appearing before a group of journalists. He said further that many Western writers talk about the various states on the basis of questionable information. (4 Mar 82, p. 5)

Somalia

American Pawn

(Excerpt) Major demonstrations are taking place in Somalia against the existing regime. The discontent is the result of Somalia having stepped into the whirlpool of the arms race since the departure of the country's present leadership from a progressive domestic and foreign policy course. The government is trying to quell the opposition's growing protests with repression and terror. In particular, Mogadishu is trying to find a way out of the present impasse by further strengthening relations with the West and with reactionary Arab regimes. But this "friendship," especially that with the United States, has not yielded the country any dividends other than having become Washington's pawn. (2 Mar 82, p. 5)

Barre's Visit to Washington

(Excerpt) The President of Somalia, S. Barre, recently visited Washington. The visitor had meetings with R. Reagan, A. Haig, and C. Weinberger. The Somali side tried to present this trip as having a certain humanitarian purpose. However, statements by representatives of the American administration and in the press make it clear that Washington saw these meetings as yet another possibility of increasing Somali dependence on the United States. (14 Mar 82, p. 4, and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report #052, 17 Mar 82, p. CC2)

Tanzania

Supreme Soviet Delegation to Tanzania

(Text) On 11 March, a delegation of the USSR Supreme Soviet headed by Deputy Chairman of the Presidium I. P. Kalin departed from Moscow to Tanzania on an official visit at the invitation of the National Assembly. (12 Mar 82, p. 4)

Supreme Soviet Delegation

(Excerpt) A delegation from the USSR Supreme Soviet led by I. P. Kalin, Deputy Chairman of that body's Presidium, arrived in Tanzania at the official invitation by the Tanzanian National Assembly. (13 Mar 82, p. 4)

Soviet Delegation Returns

(Excerpt) A USSR Supreme Soviet delegation headed by I. P. Kalin, Deputy Chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, returned to Moscow from Tanzania on 20 March. (21 Mar 82, p. 4, and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report #058, 25 Mar 82, p. J3)

Uganda

Antigovernment Attacks

(Summary) An antigovernment group, known as the Movement for a Free Uganda, undertook armed attacks in Kampala on 22 February. (25 Feb 82, p. 5)

Antigovernment Attacks Fail

(Excerpt) According to the Ugandan Ministry of Defense, the recent anti-government attacks in Kampala that occurred during the night of 22 February were a complete failure. (26 Feb 82, p. 5)

Zambia

Soviet Delegation in Zambia

(Summary) A delegation of the CPSU, headed by Lithuanian Communist Party Central Committee Secretary L. K. Shepetis, arrived in Zambia. Interparty co-operation between the CPSU and Zambia's United National Independence Party (UNIP) benefits Zambia greatly, according to UNIP member Kamanga. (2 Mar 82, p. 4 and 4 Mar 82, p. 4)

Visit by CPSU Delegation

(Excerpt) A Soviet Communist Party delegation headed by L. K. Shepetis, Secretary of the Lithuanian Central Committee, is in Zambia under the plan for interparty ties between the Soviet Communist Party and the United National Independence Party (UNIP). (4 Mar 82, p. 4, and translated in toto by FBIS Soviet Union Daily Report #047, 10 Mar 82, p. J2)

CPSU Delegation in Zambia

(Excerpt) A CPSU delegation headed by Secretary of the Central Committee of the Lithuanian Communist Party, L. K. Shepetis, visited Zambia at the invitation of the Central Committee of the United National Independence Party (UNIP) in conjunction with the plan for interparty ties between the CPSU and UNIP.

The CPSU delegation also held talks with UNIP General Secretary H. Mulemba. He expressed Zambia's intention to continue the process of strengthening bilateral relations. H. Mulemba emphasized the USSR's support for the struggle of South African peoples for national liberation. The delegation returned to Moscow on 9 March. (10 Mar 82, p. 4)

South African Threat

(Excerpt) Kenneth Kaunda, President of Zambia, declared that the racist militants of the Republic of South Africa had recently violated the air space and sovereignty of his country. South African helicopters, he declared, had entered Zambian air space on 10 February and 8 March and landed an assault unit in the Western Province. (21 Mar 82, p. 5)